

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for generating billing and computer usage time information for each of a plurality of unrelated host computer networks subscribing to ~~utilizing~~ security services from a remotely located security server, the system comprising:

a database stored on a computer readable medium, the database comprising a list of fees for each of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks;

a user authentication system comprising:

means for determining if a remotely located computer user is authorized to access one of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks;

means for establishing a connection between the remotely located computer user and one of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks if the remotely located user is an authorized remotely located user for the one of the plurality of unrelated computer networks; and

means for generating and storing a user log, the user log having a list of computer usage time remote access call start times and a list of remote access call end times for authorized users connected to the plurality of unrelated host computer networks via the user authentication system; and

a billing application in communication with the database and the user authentication system, the billing application responsive to receipt of the user log from the user authentication system to generate a bill and computer usage summary for each of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks based on the list of fees in the database.

2. (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising a help desk computer in communication with the billing application, the help desk computer having a help desk memory containing a list of authorized users who have accessed the help desk over a predetermined time period.

3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the user authentication system communicates with the billing application via a frame relay network.

4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the database further comprises a list of groups for each host computer network, wherein at least a portion of authorized users for each host computer network are associated with a group in the list of groups.

5. (Original) The system of claim 2, wherein the billing application is configured to receive the list of authorized users who have accessed the help desk and each bill generated for each of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks further comprises a list of help desk charges.

6. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the billing application comprises logic residing on a server.

7. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the billing application comprises a stand-alone billing computer.

8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein the stand-alone billing computer is in communication with the user authentication system via a frame relay network.

9. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the billing application further comprises a long distance carrier invoice for calls made by authorized users to each of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the bill generated for each of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks comprises a fixed charge for each authorized user.

11. (Currently Amended) In a system for providing secure remote access between a plurality of unrelated host computer networks and a plurality of authorized users via a network access server, a method of monitoring access to each of the unrelated host computer networks comprising the steps of:

receiving at a communication server a request from a remotely located computer user to access one of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks;

maintaining a list of host computer networks and an associated list of authorized users for each host computer network in a first memory device;

① automatically transmitting information regarding the request from the communication server to the network access server, the information comprising identification information for the remotely located computer user; creating a starting time stamp at the beginning of a remote access call received from an authorized user at a communication server and

determining at the network access server if the user is authorized to access the one of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks;

establishing a connection between the remotely located computer user and the connecting the authorized user to an appropriate one of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks via the communication server if the remotely located after determining at the network access server that the authorized user is an authorized remotely located user for authorized to connect to the appropriate one of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks;

automatically creating an ending time stamp at a conclusion of the remote access call;

storing computer usage time for the authorized remotely located computer user in a user log at the network access server after the authorized remotely located computer user disconnects from the one of the plurality of

~~unrelated host computer networks the starting and ending time stamps for the remote access call in a user log in the network access server, the starting and ending time stamps associated with the list of authorized users whereby the user log contains a record of computer time usage for each authorized user;~~

~~receiving a long distance telephone company report containing charges associated with each of the respective unrelated host computer networks;~~

for each of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks, generating a billing and computer time usage summary, each billing and computer time usage summary listing charges and computer time usage for a respective one of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks for each user and each department within a host computer network by accessing information from the user log and the telephone company report with a billing application; and

C1 electronically transmitting each billing and computer usage summary to an appropriate one of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks.

C2 12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein generating a billing and computer time usage summary further comprises generating a list of fixed charges and generating a list of help desk charges for each of the unrelated host computer networks.

13. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein generating a billing and computer time usage summary further comprises receiving a long distance telephone company report containing charges associated with each of the respective unrelated host computer networks.

C3 14. (New) The method of claim 13, further comprising listing, in the billing and computer time usage summary for a particular unrelated host computer network, charges from the long distance company report for each remotely located computer user of the particular unrelated host computer network.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein listing charges from the long distance company report comprises calculating a percentage of computer use time attributable to each of the remotely located computer users for the particular host computer network and distributing the charges from the long distance company report to

appropriate remotely located computer users in the billing summary for the particular host computer network according to the calculated percentage of computer use time.

16. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein storing computer usage time for the authorized remotely located computer user comprises recording starting and ending time stamps for a remote access call to the one of the plurality of unrelated host computer networks in the user log.

CB 17. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the billing application comprises logic for generating a bill for each unrelated host computer network identifying costs associated with individual remotely located computer users.

18. (New) The system of claim 1, wherein the billing application is configured to generate a computer usage report identifying computer usage by each of the remotely located computer users of a particular unrelated host computer network for a desired period of time.

19. (New) The system of claim 18, wherein the desired period of time is by time of day.

20. (New) The system of claim 18, wherein the desired period of time is by time of week.